

Governor Thurmond said:

Any talk about a "purge" of South Carolina officials is just so much poppy-cock. I am surprised that a news service would circulate such a story to our newspapers and attribute it to "a usually well informed state official." Any story which obviously is put out to prejudice passage of needed legislation should carry the name of the person who is supposed to have made the statements upon which the story was based.

Were it not for the fact that the people of South Carolina are so deeply interested in passage by the Senate of the House reorganization bill, I would not take notice of a story based on anonymity.

The reorganization bill is designed to reorganize our chaotic and top heavy state governmental machinery. Its purpose is to consolidate or abolish some of the more than 100 bureaus, boards and commissions. It will eliminate duplication of services in our state government, bring about greater efficiency, and save the taxpayers many thousands of dollars.

I recommended this legislation in my inaugural address. It has passed the House and is now pending in the Senate. It is supported by a vast majority of our citizens, and they will not be misled by an inspired newspaper story, the inspiration no doubt coming from some individual who fears he may lose his job as a result of a reorganization program. This legislation is more important than any individual. The legislature will control the plan of reorganization as well as determine the method of selection of employees.